

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00728 271434Z

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 /020 W

-----098586 271445Z /40

R 271412Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7474

UNCLAS VALLETTA 0728

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, MT

SUBJECT: MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN MALTA

TO S. FRED NOONAN OPR. GWEN F.

BECHTEL CORP.

WASH D.C.

REF: YOUR CABLE OF JUNE 20, 1977

1. NOTIFICATION OF MALTA'S INTENT TO DEVELOP NEW PORT FACILITIES AT MARSAXLOKK REPORTED BY EMBASSY'S A-5 OF MARCH 18, 1977. DETAILS OF PROJECT STILL NOT AVAILABLE, HOWEVER FIRST STAGE IS CONSTRUCTION OF LARGE BREAKWATER, WHICH HAS NOT YET BEGUN. WORK ON THE BREAKWATER, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO TAKE SOME TWO YEARS, IS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS, UTILIZING CONSULTANTS FROM VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. OVERALL PROJECT FALLS UNDER MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT, ENERGY, PORT AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS. PROJECT BEING UNDERTAKEN TO RELIEVE GENERAL CONGESTION IN GRAND HARBOR AND TO SERVE AS PORT FOR TRANSHIPMENT CENTER WHICH GOM HOPES TO DEVELOP.

2. SHIPBUILDING PROJECT FOR 20,000 - 120,000 DWT VESSELS IS A SEPARATE UNDERTAKING IN GRAND HARBOR WHICH HAS BEEN IN DEVELOPMENT STAGES FOR NEARLY TWO YEARS. THUS FAR THE ONLY PROGRESS HAS BEEN IN LAND CLEARANCE. ROCK FISSURES HAVE SHOWED THIS STAGE. TO DATE NO FIRM DECISIONS MADE ON EQUIPMENT

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PURCHASES. PROJECT IS TASK OF MALTA SHIPBUILDING CO. LTD., MARSA SHIPYARD OFFICE, PALAZZO PARISIO, MERCHANTS STREET, VALLETTA. THIS FIRM IS A JOINT VENTURE OF THE LIBYAN ARAB MALTESE HOLDING CO. LTD. AND THE MALTA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. (REF EMBASSY'S A-48 OF OCTOBER 7, 1976). FIRM'S CHAIRMAN IS GOM CIVIL EMPLOYEE GEORGE BORG CARDONA. INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS BASHIR DAKHAKM, LIBYAN NATIONAL AND

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR OF THE GENERAL MARITIME CO. OF LIBYA, LTD.

3. FYI: HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES IN MALTA DICTATE THAT LOCAL
LABOR BE USED ON ALL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. PREVAILING GOM
POLICY IS THAT TECHNICAL ADVICE BE OBTAINED AT LOW COST OR FREE
FROM VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OR GOVERNMENTS IN
SYMPATHY WITH THE CURRENT SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT OF MALTA.
END FYI. LAINGEN

NOTE BY OC/T: PASSED ABOVE ADDEE.

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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